

In The Claims

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1. (Originally presented) An apparatus for processing mail, comprising:
a system transport for conveying mail along a transport path;
a scale positioned along the transport path for weighing the pieces of mail;
an imaging station positioned along the transport path for scanning the pieces of mail to obtain image data for the mail to determine the address of the recipients of the pieces;
a labeler positioned along the transport path for applying labels to the mail;
a processor operable to determine the postage required for a piece of mail in response to the weight of the piece of mail; and
a printer operable to print the determined postage onto the label for the piece.
2. (Originally presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the processor determines the postage in response to the determined recipient's address and the weight of the piece.
3. (Originally presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the imaging station comprises a line scan camera for scanning the piece of mail at a plurality of discrete points to create a set of image data representative of at least a portion of the piece of mail.
4. (Originally presented) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the imaging station comprises an imaging computer for processing the image data to determine the recipient of the piece.
5. (Originally presented) The apparatus of the claim 4 wherein the imaging computer analyzes the image data utilizing OCR to determine the address and the Zipcode of the recipient of the piece, and the piece is rejected if the

determined address and Zipcode do not properly correlate.

6. (Originally presented) The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a sorter for sorting the pieces of mail according to a characteristic of each piece.
7. (Originally presented) The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a sorter for sorting the pieces into a plurality of bins in response to the determined address for the pieces.
8. (Originally presented) The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a reject bin for receiving pieces for which the recipient's address is not determined.
9. (Originally presented) The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a re-orientor operable to re-orient the mail as the feeder feeds the mail into the system transport.
10. (Originally presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the system transport comprises a roller bed for conveying the pieces of mail in a generally horizontal orientation.
11. (Originally presented) The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a verifier operable to scan the pieces and determine whether the postage was properly printed.
12. (Originally presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the verifier comprises a line scan camera for scanning the pieces of mail at a plurality of discrete points to create image data representative of at least a portion of the pieces of mail.
13. (Originally presented) A method for processing mail, comprising the steps of:
scanning a piece of mail to determine the recipient;
conveying the piece of mail to a scale;

weighing the piece;
determining the appropriate postage based on the determined weight of the piece;
adhering a label onto the piece; and
printing the appropriate postage on the label.

14. (Originally presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of determining the appropriate postage comprises determining the appropriate postage based on the determined address and the determined weight of the piece.
15. (Originally presented) The method of claim 13 comprising the step of sorting the piece into one of a plurality of output bins.
16. (Originally presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the piece is sorted according to the recipient's address.
17. (Originally presented) The method of claim 13 comprising the step of scanning the printed postage to verify that the postage was properly printed.
18. (Originally presented) The method of claim 13 comprising the step of serially feeding the piece from a stack of mail in an input bin.
29. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a sorter for sorting a piece of mail into one of a plurality of bins in response to the determined weight for the piece.
30. (Newly presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of sorting comprises sorting the piece into a bin based on the weight of the piece.

31. (Newly presented) An apparatus for processing mail, comprising:
 - a transport for conveying mail along a path;
 - a scale positioned along the path for weighing the pieces of mail;
 - a scanner positioned along the transport path for scanning the pieces of mail to obtain image data for the mail to determine address information of the recipients of the pieces;
 - a labeler positioned along the transport path for applying labels to the pieces of mail;
 - a processor operable to determine postage information for a piece of mail in response to the weight of the piece of mail;
 - a printer operable to print the determined postage information onto the label for the piece; and
 - a sorter operable to sort the piece of mail into one of a plurality of bins based on the weight of the piece of mail.
32. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the processor determines the postage information in response to the determined recipient's address information and the weight of the piece.
33. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the sorter is operable to sort the piece of mail based on the weight of the piece of mail and the address information for the recipient of the piece of mail.
34. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the imaging station comprises a line scan camera for scanning the piece of mail at a plurality of discrete points to create a set of image data representative of at least a portion of the piece of mail.
35. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the imaging station

comprises an imaging computer for processing the image data to determine the recipient of the piece.

36. (Newly presented) The apparatus of the claim 35 wherein the imaging computer analyzes the image data utilizing OCR to determine the address and the Zipcode of the recipient of the piece, and the piece is rejected if the determined address and Zipcode do not properly correlate.
37. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 31 comprising a reject bin for receiving pieces for which the recipient's address is not determined.
38. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 31 comprising a re-orientor operable to re-orient the mail as the feeder feeds the mail into the transport.
39. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the transport is configured to transport the pieces of mail in a generally horizontal orientation.
40. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 31 comprising a verifier operable to scan the pieces and determine whether the postage information was properly printed.
41. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the verifier comprises a line scan camera for scanning the pieces of mail at a plurality of discrete points to create image data representative of at least a portion of the pieces of mail.
42. (Newly presented) An apparatus for processing mail, comprising:
a transport for conveying mail along a path;
a scale positioned along the path for weighing the pieces of mail;
a scanner positioned along the transport path for scanning the pieces of mail to

determine address information of the recipients of the pieces;
a labeler positioned along the transport path for selectively applying labels to the pieces of mail;
a processor operable to selectively determine postage information for a piece of mail in response to the weight of the piece of mail; and
a printer operable to selectively print the determined postage information onto the label for the piece.

43. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 42 comprising a sorter operable to sort the piece of mail into one of a plurality of bins based on the weight of the piece of mail.
44. (Newly presented) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the processor is operable to selectively determine the postage information for the piece of mail in response to the recipient of the piece of mail.
45. (Newly presented) A method for processing mail, comprising the steps of:
scanning a piece of mail to determine the recipient;
conveying the piece of mail along a transport path to a scale;
weighing the piece;
determining the postage information for the piece based on the determined weight of the piece;
conveying the piece along the transport path to a labeler;
adhering a label onto the piece;
conveying the piece along the transport path to a printer;
printing the determined postage information on the label;
conveying the piece along the transport path to a sorter; and
sorting the piece into one of a plurality of bins based on the weight of the piece.

46. (Newly presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the step of determining the appropriate postage comprises determining the appropriate postage based on the determined address and the determined weight of the piece.
47. (Newly presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of sorting comprises sorting the piece according to the recipient's address.
48. (Newly presented) A method for processing mail, comprising the steps of:
scanning a piece of mail to determine the recipient;
conveying the piece of mail along a transport path to a scale;
weighing the piece;
determining the postage information for the piece based on the determined weight of the piece;
conveying the piece along the transport path to a labeler;
adhering a label onto the piece;
conveying the piece along the transport path to a sorter; and
sorting the piece into one of a plurality of bins based on the weight of the piece.
49. (Newly presented) The method of claim 48 comprising the step printing the postage information on the label.